

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 77-204 are pending in the application, with 77, 122, and 166 as the independent claims. Claims 48-76 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 77-204 have been added. It is believed that these changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to incorporate text from priority Application No. 08/103,396, which was incorporated by reference into the present application. Support for the amendment may be found at page 23, line 15 of Appl. No. 08/103,396, and page 1, lines 21 and 32-33 of the present specification.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. For the Examiner's convenience, **Table 1** (attached) sets out examples of locations where support for the new claims can be found in the present application. (Applicants will provide examples of locations where support may be found in priority Appl. No. 08/027,146, at a later time if the Examiner so wishes.)

Interview

Applicants thank Examiners Schwadron and DiBrino for the courteous and helpful interview extended to Bob Chesnut, Alex Alessandro, and Grace Doh, all of Epimmune, and Applicants' representatives Eric Steffe and Helene Carlson on January 10, 2002.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants have organized the independent claims to include peptides having the same priority dates, to aid in examination. Thus, Applicants request examination of a reasonable number of peptides, notwithstanding the fact that they

are recited in several independent claims. Applicants also provide in **Table 2** (attached), a list of each peptide recited in the claims (those recited in the independent claims are indicated by claim number), the location in and identity of the HCV antigen where the peptide is found, and the filing date and serial number of the application in which the peptide was first disclosed by Applicants.

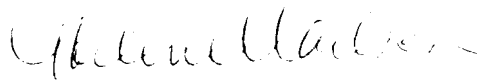
Applicants also provide herewith information (attached) obtained from searches performed for the claimed peptides, for the convenience of the Examiner. The SEQ ID NO for the peptide that was the subject of each search is indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This information should not be construed as a representation that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist, and Applicants request that the Examiner perform an independent search of the claimed subject matter.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 15 has been replaced with the following paragraph:

The term "peptide" is used interchangeably with "oligopeptide" in the present specification to designate a series of residues, typically L-amino acids, connected one to the other, typically by peptide bonds between the α -amino and carboxyl groups of adjacent amino acids. The preferred CTL-inducing peptides of the invention are 15 residues or less in length or 13 residues or less in length and usually consist of between about 8 and about 11 residues, preferably 9 or 10 residues. The preferred HTL-inducing oligopeptides are less than about 50 residues in length and usually consist of between about 6 and about 30 residues, more usually between about 12 and 25, and often between about 15 and 20 residues.

In the Claims:

Claims 40-76 have been cancelled.

Claims 77-204 have been added.